I would like to express my opposition to allowing broadband internet connection over power lines. I am a licensed amateur radio operator (callsign WA1MKE) and hold a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Iowa specializing in radio astronomy.

It has been my experience that the present power line infrastucture generates noise at a level that disrupts HF and low frequency VHF communications for my self and other amateur operators in the area. The amateur service is a key part of the emergency service infrastructure. This plan will raise noise levels to a point where the HF and low VHF bands will be useless for communications.

Electric power utilities have had a poor record in the area of maintaining the quality of their transmission lines. Noise generated in any area of the country is propagated via the ionisphere to other parts of the country. Transmitting HF signals through poorly maintained transmission lines which were never designed for that purpose guarantees noise levels across the country that will permanently disrupt any HF and low VHF communication systems. This weakness in the transmission line infrastructure was demonstrated by the recent Northeastern Blackout. High Voltage power lines both locally and regionally are not high on the power industry's list of maintenance priorities but they would be the predominant carrier of the BPL signals.

As a consumer I am concerned since it will likely limit my ability to receive VHF television at my home. I live in a rural section of Indiana and do not perceive a need for a high speed internet connection that will wipe out my vhf television reception.

I believe the best methods of providing high speed internet service to rural areas is through a satelite link or by a wireless point to point system in the microwave spectrum. Several commercial enterprises have offered satelite service in my area at competitive rates.